

IN THE CLAIMS

1-25 (cancelled).

26. (previously presented) A method of displaying images of a first image moving against a background and a second image of shimmering background associated with the first image, comprising:

(a) determining first and second rendering areas in a background image;

(b) extracting a first image portion from an image rendering pattern of a first image, said image rendering pattern comprising a plurality of first image display portions extractable in a sequence to display different extracted portions of said pattern to simulate motion of said first image;

(c) combining a first mask pattern with said first image portion to generate and render an object image in said first rendering area, said first mask pattern comprising background image information and first image information;

(d) extracting a second image from said second rendering area and generating a new second image by arbitrarily moving said second image;

(e) combining said new second image with a second mask pattern to generate and render a shimmering image of the background in said second rendering area; and

(f) repeating steps (b) through (e) to extract additional image portions from said image rendering pattern, combine said first mask pattern with said additional image portions, generate new second images by arbitrarily moving said second image, and combine said new second images with said second mask pattern to generate and render shimmering images of the background.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said generating a new second image comprises

applying a randomly selected animation pattern to said extracted second image.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising selecting said first mask pattern from a plurality of mask patterns.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein extracting additional image portions from said image rendering pattern comprises extracting subsequent portions of said image portions adjacent to previous portions of said extracted image portions.

30. (previously presented) Apparatus for displaying images of a first image moving against a background and a second image of shimmering background associated with the first image, comprising:

(a) means for determining first and second rendering areas in a background image;

(b) means for extracting a first image portion from an image rendering pattern of a first image, said image rendering pattern comprising a plurality of first image display portions extractable in a sequence to display different extracted portions of said pattern to simulate motion of said first image;

(c) means for combining a first mask pattern with said first image portion to generate and render an object image in said first rendering area, said first mask pattern comprising background image information and first image information;

(d) means for extracting a second image from said second rendering area and generating a new second image by arbitrarily moving said second image; and

(e) means for combining said new second image with a second mask pattern to generate and render a shimmering image of the background in said second rendering area;

wherein said means for extracting a first image portion extracts additional image portions from said image rendering pattern, said means for combining a first mask pattern combines said first mask pattern with said additional image portions, said means for extracting a second image generates new second images by arbitrarily moving said second image, and said means for combining said new second image combines said new second images with said second mask pattern to generate and render shimmering images of the background.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said means for generating a new second image comprises means for applying a randomly selected animation pattern to said extracted second image.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising means for selecting said first mask pattern from a plurality of mask patterns.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said means for extracting additional image portions from said image rendering pattern comprises means for extracting subsequent portions of said image portions adjacent to previous portions of said extracted image portions.

34. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a program and data for displaying images of a first image moving against a background and a second image of shimmering background displayed associated with the first image, said program comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

(a) determine first and second rendering areas in a background image;

(b) extract a first image portion from an image rendering pattern of a first image, said image rendering pattern

comprising a plurality of first image display portions extractable in a sequence to display different extracted portions of said pattern to simulate motion of said first image;

(c) combine a first mask pattern with said first image portion to generate and render an object image in said first rendering area, said first mask pattern comprising background image information and first image information;

(d) extract a second image from said second rendering area and generate a new second image by arbitrarily moving said second image;

(e) combine said new second image with a second mask pattern to generate and render a shimmering image of the background in said second rendering area; and

(f) repeat steps (b) through (e) to extract additional image portions from said image rendering pattern, combine said first mask pattern with said additional image portions, generate new second images by arbitrarily moving said second image, and combine said new second images with said second mask pattern to generate and render shimmering images of the background.

35. (previously presented) The recording medium according to claim 34, wherein said generating a new second image comprises applying a randomly selected animation pattern to said extracted second image.

36. (previously presented) The recording medium according to claim 34, further comprising selecting said first mask pattern from a plurality of mask patterns.

37. (previously presented) The recording medium according to claim 34, wherein said extracting additional image portions from said image rendering pattern comprises extracting subsequent portions of said image portions adjacent to previous portions of said extracted image portions.

38. (previously presented) A program readable and executable by a computer for displaying images of a first image moving against a background and a second image of shimmering background associated with the first image, said program comprising:

(a) determining first and second rendering areas in a background image;

(b) extracting a first image portion from an image rendering pattern of a first image, said image rendering pattern comprising a plurality of first image display portions extractable in a sequence to display different extracted portions of said pattern to simulate motion of said first image;

(c) combining a first mask pattern with said first image portion to generate and render an object image in said first rendering area, said first mask pattern comprising background image information and first image information;

(d) extracting a second image from said second rendering area and generating a new second image by arbitrarily moving said second image;

(e) combining said new second image with a second mask pattern to generate and render a shimmering image of the background in said second rendering area; and

(f) repeating steps (b) through (e) to extract additional image portions from said image rendering pattern, combine said first mask pattern with said additional image portions, generate new second images by arbitrarily moving said second image, and combine said new second images with said second mask pattern to generate and render shimmering images of the background.

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)